42 per cent of the budgeted expenditure from April to October, 2001; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the effect it has on the development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Plan Expenditure from April to October, 2001 is 46 per cent of Budget Estimates 2001-2002 which is the same as in the corresponding period last year.

Rise in price of Gold

1698. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of Gold is increasing at a rapid rate;

(b) what will be the effect on our economy due to this hike;

(c) the reasons for this sudden increase; and

(d) the steps taken to contain the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The price of gold (Delhi Standard) increased from Rs. 426 per gram since end March 2001 to Rs. 500 per gram in the beginning of March 2002, mainly due to an increase in the international price of gold. The increase might have some marginal impact on the cost of gold ornaments in the domestic market.